appointed *ad hoc* and that appeal should lie from their decisions to the High Court. In any case before the rules were amended, the member would suggest that the proposed amendments might be referred to the various municipal councils.

DEWAN'S REPLY : Mr. Narayanan Namputiri, the point you raised in regard to the amendment of the Municipal Regulation and the rules under it in the matter of election, will receive the consideration of Government. Sooner or later the time must come when the municipal election rules will have to be revised ; and the question of who should constitute the revising or appellate authority in election disputes is already engaging the attention of Government.

70. Needs of Nanjanad.

MR. KANAKKU MATHEVAN PILLAI PERUMAL PILLAI (*Member, Agastiswaram taluk*) said that new reservoirs should be constructed in Nanjanad and that the existing tanks should be regularly repaired. The Alathurayar should also be extended. A road should be opened from Marungur Subrahmanyaswami Koil through Kominachanputhur to the Tovala channel. Another road should be opened from the Myladi camp-shed to the Tovala channel through Thanumalayam Block Sluice. A third road should be opened from the N. B. Channel, 13th mile, to Marutvamalai through Oseravilacheri, Lakshmipuram, Perumalpuram, etc. and the banks of the channel should be metalled. Again, a road should be opened from Chantanputhur to Pappanurkulam through Virusadicheri, and the Parakkai-Tamarakulam road should be metalled. The member also referred to the opening of two other roads *viz.*, (*a*) from the Ozhugenaseri-Terur road to the Theraikalputur-Terur road, through Putugramam and Pitchatikulam cheries; and (*b*) a road from Kottaram to the Vattakotta road through Narikulam. The banks of the Narayanikulam in Kulasekharapuram should also be widened. A veterinary hospital should be opened at Myladi. In the interest of agriculture, the ryots in the Agasteeswaram taluk should also be granted free passes for collecting timber from the forests in the Tovala taluk for making agricultural implements. As regards the salt industry in Nanjinad, the member requested that Government might give due encouragement to the industry.

In this connection the member handed over to the Dewan a representation signed by himself and certain other members of the Assembly regarding the removal of silt from the tank beds in Nanjinad. They said that Government had by a recent notification prohibited the removal of the silt from tank beds. This was injurious to agriculture in more than one way. The silt from the tank-beds served in the first place as good manure, and was being made use of abundantly by the ryots. Secondly, by removing the silt deposited in the tanks every year, the ryots were helping to deepen the tanks. The notification had therefore to be cancelled.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Mathevan Pillai Perumal Pillai, I do not think time will permit of my giving you immediate answers to all the points you have raised.

In regard to the construction of new reservoirs, repair of existing tanks, and extension of the Alathurayar, a scheme was once upon a time drawn up to supplement the supply to the area and relieve the strain on the Thovala channel by extending the Alathurayar below the Pulikurichi tank.

The scheme is estimated to cost a great deal of money, about a lakh and twenty thousand rupees. But as any such scheme will not bring any further lands under cultivation, there is no immediate need to proceed with the scheme.

In regard to the first three roads *i. e.*, (1) a road from Marungur Subramonia Swami Kovil through Kominachanputur to the Tovala channel, (2) a road from the Myladi camp-shed to the Tovala channel, through Thanumalayam Block sluice, and (3) a road from the N. B. channel, 13th mile, to Marutvamalai, through Osaravilacheri, Lekshmipuram, etc., and metalling the banks of the channel, the Executive Engineer is preparing estimates in respect of them.

As regards the road from Chantanputur to Pappanurkulam, the whole length of the road is only about 36 miles and the cost is slight. The Chief Engineer proposes taking that question up.

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All other points will be considered separately after the Assembly is over and you will be given replies separately.

There is already a cart track along the bank dividing Therkulam and Mekaputheri tank serving the agricultural needs. Opening a road will necessitate the construction of two bridges one at Manikaputherikulam and the other at Theraikal.

The local officers and others in a position to judge are of opinion that there is no urgent need for this road and therefore it must take its place on the waiting list.

You have given me a representation in which you say an order was issued prohibiting the removal of silt. That is not correct. What the order says is that you should obtain previous permission to remove.

MEMBER: We are the persons who are immediately affected by it. Government will feel the evil only gradually.

DEWAN: You see the practice hitherto has been for anybody and every body at any time they choose to remove silt. Now, there is to be a systematic removal of silt which will be regulated and those who want silt have to obtain permission beforehand.

71. Needs of Nanjanad.

MR. R. SIVASUBRAHMONYA NADAR (*Member, Nominated*) said many pakuthi cutcherries were situated far away from the centre of the pakuthies. Agastispuram and Cape Comorin pakuthy cutcherries were instances in point. Since the location of the cutcherries in out of the way places caused great inconvenience to the public, they should be transferred to the centre of the pakuthies, as far as possible.

According to the prevailing system of tax collection, land-owners who possessed lands in different pakuthies had to remit their taxes piecemeal to the respective pakuthies in which the lands were situated. If at times the payment of tax was delayed, demand notices were issued to them from the different pakuthies and a fee of one fanam was levied on each notice. But if the taxes due from all the pakuthies were consolidated, only one demand notice would have to be issued and only a fee of one fanam would have to be levied. It was therefore desirable that all land taxes due from a land-owner on lands lying in different pakuthies should be consolidated and made payable in the pakuthi cutcherry of the pakuthi where he resided.

Survey training was regarded as an indispensable qualification for candidates seeking appointment as surveyors or accountants, but since the only survey schools in the State were at Trivandrum and Kottayam, the people of South Travancore were at a disadvantage. Few of them could come up to Trivandrum for studying in the Central Survey School. To remove this disadvantage, it was desirable to open a survey school at Nagercoil. If that was not possible, Nagercoil might be made an additional centre for the survey entrance examination. The courses of study for the survey examination might also be shortened.

Salt cultivation in the Rajakkamangalam allom was in a deplorable condition. In olden days this allom was producing more than a hundred thousand maunds of salt annually. But now there was practically no production whatever. One of the main causes of this was the percolation of fresh water. This could be remedied by keeping the ring channels in proper condition and draining them with the aid of pumps. The supply of brine also had to be enhanced. All the efforts of the Public Works Department in this direction had failed. The diversion of the fresh water of the Alenkal into the sea by constructing an anicut near Ottapanai would greatly improve the brine supply. If this was not possible, brine might be supplied direct from the sea with the aid of an engine. Both or either of these suggestions should be given effect to immediately.

So far as agricultural operations in Nanjanad were concerned, the opening of certain roads would be of immense use to the cultivators. One of the banks of the Anandan Kal should, for example, be converted into a cart-road. A road should also be opened from the 50th mile, Cape road, to the Thevakolamchery. This was

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